



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

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BOSTON MARATHON 2013

Patriots Day at the SEOC in Framingham began at 7am as it had for the previous 12 years, with the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) standing up for the Boston Marathon. About 100 individuals, including Fire, Police & EMS from the 8 communities through which the Marathon is run; federal liaisons from FEMA, FBI, FAA; State Police, National Guard, MassDOT, Public Health and American Red Cross; as well as representatives from the major ambulance providers, as the MACC served as a coordinating point for ambulance dispatch for Race Day. There was perfect running weather, with temperatures in the 50s. There was less than the usual number of runners seeking medical assistance at the 26 Medical Tents along the course. It was very uneventful until 2:50PM when the first of two bombs exploded at the finish line. 3 spectators were killed and hundreds were severely injured. Amazingly due to the heroic reactions of the first responders, race volunteers, fellow spectators and scores of medical staff, all of the dozens of critically injured survived. Dozens of volunteers, who were standing at the ready with wheel chairs to transport distressed runners to the Medical Tent, began aiding those injured in the blast. Dozens of ambulances which were pre-staged by the Medical Tents were dispatched to the half dozen major hospitals located within a mile of the area. With almost 9,000 runners still on the course it was decided to stop the race and not let any more runners near the finish line. As the result of pre-planning and a previous Tabletop Exercise scenario, it was decided to establish pre-determined 'safe havens' along the course to temporarily shelter runners at colleges, town halls, churches, and temples. Once it was determined that it would be safe, an armada of buses were dispatched to transport the runners into Boston. During the afternoon, the Race Event morphed into a Law Enforcement Event, with the finish line now a crime scene, as 12 square blocks were locked down. During the following week, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Teams were made available for responders, volunteers and the public. The President assisted with a Federal Emergency Declaration and an SBA Economic Declaration to aid the area. Late Thursday night, after an MIT Campus Police Officer was killed, a shoot-out took place in which Suspect 1 was killed and a Transit Police Officer was wounded. Suspect 2 continued to be on the run. During the pre-dawn hours on Friday, with the man-hunt well underway, for citizen protection and to minimize interference with the manhunt, the decision was made to lock down Watertown and the 6 contiguous communities, which included Boston. (100 square miles, about 1 million residents plus another ½ million who travel into the area for work.) All Public Transportation Service – buses, subways, trolleys, commuter trains and taxi cabs was suspended. Businesses were asked to close, and residents were told to stay indoors, only answering their door for a uniformed law enforcement officer. Beginning Friday morning, MEMA supplied logistical support, taking over a Watertown Mall parking lot for a Base Camp that hosted over 1,000 Law Enforcement personnel and supported 5 command posts, and a second Mall parking lot across the street for a staging area for the 500+ media. Assets included tents, generators, lights, sound systems, tables, chairs, port-o-potties, and a

Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Andrea J. Cabral, Secretary of Public Safety & Security
Kurt N. Schwartz, MEMA Director

helipad. Over 2,000 meals were served at the Base Camp and Media Staging area. MSP even supplied fuel for Media vehicles as area service stations were closed. The Base Camp stood down with the capture of Suspect 2 on Friday night after 102 hours. During the week, MEMA pushed out information using traditional media, agency & state websites, twitter, Facebook, electronic bill boards, Mass 2-1-1 and the emergency alert app Ping4alerts. In addition MEMA utilized WebEOC and HHAN (Health & Homeland Alert Network) informational bulletins by emails, telephone calls, text messages, and web posts to public safety, public health and private sector groups. For the first time MEMA utilized the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system which pushed out a geo-fenced message directly to newer cell phones in the impacted area.

DIRECTOR SCHWARTZ TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS

On Thursday May 9th, MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz testified before the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee about the response of safety officials and the public around the Boston Marathon bombings. The Director expressed strong praise for the emergency response and credited post-9/11 investments intended to enhance homeland security in Massachusetts, as well as interoperability among emergency personnel. The Director's written testimony appears on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema.

MEMA TO HOLD 2-DAY STATEWIDE CONFERENCE IN MAY

MEMA will be conducting a two-day conference for Emergency Management partners on May 28-29 at the DCU Center, 50 Foster Street, Worcester. The 2013 Statewide Emergency Management Conference will bring together more than 500 attendees from a variety of disciplines across the Commonwealth to explore a wide spectrum of emergency management topics. The conference will provide an unparalleled opportunity to train and network with local, state and federal partners and practitioners from a variety of fields including emergency management, public safety, public health, communications, volunteer organizations, and business & industry, and will provide a foundation for collaboratively building a safer tomorrow for the Commonwealth. Through interactive presentations, panel discussions and demonstrations, experts in these fields will showcase and share model practices, discuss planning and response tools and technologies, and share lessons learned from recent events. Most importantly, together we will learn how to better prepare together for the challenges ahead. Complete information regarding this FREE conference, including registration forms, are available on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema.

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCE BLIZZARD ASSISTANCE

In response to Governor Patrick's request to President Obama, federal disaster aid was made available to MA communities to assist in their recovery from the snowstorm and accompanying coastal flooding that impacted the state on February 8-9, 2013. Certain eligible non-profit organizations and state agencies may also be reimbursed for Blizzard-related expenditures. Assistance was authorized under a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (PA) and Direct Federal Assistance following a review of FEMA's analysis of Governor Patrick's request letter. The PA assistance will be made available to all 14 counties. Under this PA Program, affected local governments, state agencies and various eligible private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for federal funds to be reimbursed for 75% of the approved cost of protective measures, storm-related overtime costs for first responders, clearing debris from public roads and public property, and repairing, replacing, restoring or reconstructing damaged public facilities and infrastructure. In addition 10 counties: Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester Counties, are eligible for Snow Assistance under FEMA guidelines because they received a record or near record (within 10% of the record) snowfall. Those counties will be reimbursed for 75% of their eligible costs for 48 hours of snow plowing, snow removal and road surface treatment associated with the blizzard. Beginning the last week in April, MEMA held 14 applicant briefings across MA explaining the intricacies of reimbursement process.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

MEMA and DCR are pleased to announce the availability of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. This post-disaster mitigation grant funding is now available as a result of the federal disaster declarations for Tropical Storm Sandy. The deadline to submit applications is Friday August 30, 2013. This funding is designated to reduce risks to the population and structures to natural hazards. Some of the eligible project types include; Storm-water, drainage and culvert improvements, property acquisition, slope stabilization, infrastructure protection, seismic and wind retrofits, structure elevations, public outreach, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan development, etc. All proposed projects require a non-federal share 25% (or more) of the total estimated project cost. Please contact Sarah White, Mitigation Grants Supervisor, sarah.white@state.ma.us or 508-820-2053 with questions.

EMPG & CITIZEN CORPS GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

MEMA has announced two open applications for Grant Funding: the FFY 2012 Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) and the FFY 2012 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Citizen Corps Program. The application documents are posted on the MEMA website at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/empg-and-ccp-and-hmep-grants.html> and contain information on eligibility, the application process, and application deadlines.

NEW TIER II MANAGER SYSTEM

MEMA, in coordination with the MA State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), has purchased a secure, web-based Tier II Manager system. It is anticipated that this system will be used for the Tier II Reporting Year 2013. MEMA has developed an implementation plan and will conduct outreach and training over the upcoming months. http://www.idsiinternational.com/TIER_II_MANAGER.html.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the past month 180 individuals attended 10 different classes receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas: *ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400, Resource Management System (RMS) Basic, RMS System Administration, and Multi-Agency Planning for Schools*. Year-to-date, 653 students have attended 40 offerings. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

CSU FORECASTS BUSY HURRICANE SEASON

Forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting an above-average Atlantic hurricane season due to the combination of an anomalously warm tropical Atlantic and a relatively low likelihood of El Niño. Coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them, and they need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted. The CSU experts are calling for 18 named storms, including 9 hurricanes, 4 of which should be major (Category 3, 4 or 5). The 50-year average is approximately 10 named storms, 6.5 hurricanes and 2 major hurricanes. For more details, on their latest forecast, go to <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/>.

UPDATED STAFFORD ACT AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

FEMA has made available an updated electronic version of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, and Related Authorities as of April 2013. The Stafford Act (Public Law 100-707) was signed into law on November 23, 1988; amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288). The Stafford Act constitutes the statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities especially as they pertain to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and FEMA programs. It can be found at:

http://www.fema.gov/library/file;jsessionid=07AEC5CBAF7673D1346FAA7CB2AEDDFB.WorkerPubli c2?type=publishedFile&file=stafford_act_booklet_042213_508d.pdf&fileid=4147a930-ac76-11e2-a228-001cc456982e.

POSITIVE ISO-NE SUMMER OUTLOOK

ISO-New England (Independent System Operators) recently announced that electricity supplies during the upcoming summer in the six-state New England region are expected to be sufficient to meet consumer demand under normal weather conditions. ISO New England Inc. is the operator of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets. Consumer demand for electricity in New England is highest during the summer months, largely because of air-conditioning use. If electricity supplies are tight as the result of an unexpected resource outage, an extended heat wave that causes consumer demand for electricity to spike, or fuel supply issues that diminish the available generation, ISO New England has well-established procedures in place to bring the system back into balance. These actions could include calling on demand-response resources to curtail their energy use, importing emergency power from neighboring regions, and asking businesses and residents to voluntarily conserve energy. Last summer, electricity usage peaked on July 17, at 25,880 MW. The all-time record for peak demand was set on August 2, 2006, when demand reached 28,130 MW. In New England, one megawatt of electricity can power approximately 1,000 homes. For complete info, go to http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/pr/2013/2013_summer_outlook_final.pdf.

NIMS REVIEW & UPDATE

FEMA's National Integration Center (NIC) is currently soliciting public feedback and engagement via IdeaScale for the review and update of National Incident Management System (NIMS) doctrine. IdeaScale provides a forum for all stakeholders to like or dislike current ideas and offer substantive feedback regarding major issues or concerns. Inputs on this website will help shape public engagement topics moving forward and will be incorporated, as appropriate, into updated drafts of the NIMS. The NIC conducts the review and update of NIMS doctrine to incorporate new presidential directives, legislative changes, lessons learned, and best practices. This process maintains the doctrine's currency and ensures consistency with current policy, incorporates emergency management best practices, and identifies conceptual changes based on a review of NIMS-related literature.

The NIC has organized potential areas of change within the NIMS into the following themes:

- NIMS relationship to the National Preparedness System and its other components
- Inclusion of "whole community" concepts in the NIMS
- Expansion of the concept of national mutual aid
- Comprehensive discussion of support, coordination, collaboration, and command and management with regard to tactical and non-tactical operations
- Inclusion of language discussing the use of decision support tools and technology into the NIMS
- Expansion of the use and interoperability of Emergency Communications

Please submit your feedback and comments within 30 days of the publication of proposed changes on IdeaScale on the FEMA website. Additional questions can be directed to FEMA's National Integration Center via email: FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov or via telephone: 202.646.3850. For more information, go to <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7335>.

TRI-STATE MEETING

The most recent Tri-State Directors Meeting was held on April 16th in Brattleboro, VT. Among the nuclear safety related topics that were highlighted included Collaboration among MA, VT, NH and NY Field Monitoring Teams; an update of the Northeast High-level Radioactive Waste Transportation Project; and updates from the region's state and federal partners, National Weather Service and Nuclear Plant

NEDRIX JUNE CONFERENCE

The NorthEast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will be holding their June 2013 Conference at Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, One Enterprise Drive, Quincy. The program theme is

'Cyber Threats & Security'. The conference will include a presentation from an expert in Cyber Security which will be followed by a technology simulation exercise aimed to co-ordinate responses to cyber threats. Please check the NEDRIX website for updates and details: <http://www.nedrix.com/>.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

MEMA continues to encourage all communities and governmental entities to take advantage of the opportunity to opt into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement program. To date, 235 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 167 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at www.mass.gov/mema. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

DOWNLOAD PING4ALERTS! APP

MEMA continues to encourage citizens to download the FREE mobile app, *ping4alerts!*. This state-of-the-art tool significantly enhances MEMA's ability to communicate with the public during emergencies. In a matter of minutes, MEMA has the ability to highlight an area on a map and then push text messages, text files, image files and audio messages to Smartphones that have the app and are located within that area. National Weather Service severe weather alerts are also pushed to phones with the app in affected areas. The app is now available for iPhone and Android Smartphones. MEMA continues to encourage all Smartphone users to visit the following website: www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp for additional information and to download this mobile app. This is a resource that MEMA will be sharing broadly with other state agencies, as well as local public safety, public health and emergency management officials in order to ensure that the public receives warnings about imminent or occurring emergencies and information that will help them take appropriate steps to mitigate their risk.

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